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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. S-3-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: )  
RONALD A. UNDERWOOD et al. ) Examiner: Lee S. Cohen  
Application No.: 09/512,742 ) Art Unit: 3739  
Filed: February 24, 2000 ) AMENDMENT  
For: METHODS FOR ELECTROSURGICAL )  
TISSUE CONTRACTION WITHIN THE SPINE )  
)  
)  
)  
)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 14, 2001, please  
amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

1. Please enter the following amended paragraph on page 42, line 35:

As shown in Fig. 34, the distal portion of shaft 702 is introduced  
anteriorly through a small percutaneous penetration into the annulus fibrosus 710 of the  
target spinal disc. To facilitate this process, the distal end of shaft 702 may taper down

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